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Northallerton Rural District Council

Annual Reports

By the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year Year ended 31st December, 1947,
and the six months (January 1st to June 30th, 1948.)

Clerk :

JOSEPH HUNT, Esq., Solicitor.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. A. HUTCHINSON, M.D., M.S., M.R.C.S.

Inspector :

H. TEMPLEMAN, A.R.S.I., C.R.S.I., Cert. Meal and other Foods.

Northallerton Rural Disirict Council.

Medical Officer's Report

for 1947.

Chairman—HERBERT ATKINSON, ESQ.

Vice-Chairman—JOHN WALKER, ESQ.

Clerk—JOSEPH HUNT, ESQ., SOLICITOR

Medical Officer—J. A. HUTCHINSON, M.D., M.S., M.R.C.S.

Deputy Medical Officer—A. E. MILNE, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector—H. TEMPLEMAN, A.R.S.I., C.R.S.I.

Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Isolation Hospital Matron—MISS M. B. GARLAND, S.R.N., R.F.N.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR 1947.

EXTRACTS FROM STATISTICS FOR 1947.

Population at 1931 Census—7,683.

Estimate of population for middle of 1947—8,126. R.G.

Births Registered—144. Males 70, Females 74 ; of these 7 were illegitimate, as against 12 for 1946.

Your Birth-rate was 17.72 per 1,000 civilian population.

This rate for England and Wales was 20.5 for 1947.

Deaths registered 100—Males 49, Females 51.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—8, of these only one lived more than a few days ; only 2 were illegitimate.

No death was registered as due to acute Infectious Disease and only 1 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Your Death Rate was 12.3 per 1,000 Civilian population.

This rate for England and Wales was 12 for 1947.

Averages at Death—Males 64.9 years ; Females 66.6 years, for this Area.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the past year, 1947.

The General Health of your community has been quite good throughout the past year. We had no serious outbreak of infectious diseases. Measles and Whooping Cough however were accountable for a certain amount of absenteeism from schools, as ascertained from reports by head teachers ; but as very few were medically notified the outbreaks appear to have been of a mild character. In the case of measles the risk of complication should not be overlooked, and medical supervision should therefor be secured for all severe cases.

Only 26 notifications of Acute Infectious Diseases were received. These were : Measles 9, Pneumonia 6, Scarlet Fever 4, Diphtheria 4, Infantile Paralysis 2, and Whooping Cough 1. All the Diphtherias had been immunised,—they were not ill but yielded positive swabs and were therefore possible carriers and were detained and treated until negative for a full week before discharge. Two cases of Pulmonary, and one of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were also notified. The Pulmonary cases were given Sanatorium treatment under the care of Dr. Cubie, County Tuberculosis Officer. The County Council may grant special assistance where necessary.

One of the Infantile Paralysis cases developed paralysis of one Deltoid muscle which appeared to be passing off satisfactorily before discharge.

V. D.

After display of Posters in suitable places advising sufferers from these diseases to seek treatment by their own medical advisers or at the Special Clinic where strict privacy is observed, no applications have been made to me or to my immediate professional neighbours. Enquiries, however, at the nearest special clinic shew that 6 patients giving addresses within this area were under treatment there during 1947—four males and two females.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water supplies continue as described in previous Annual Reports.

Although four of your villages, Romanby, Brompton, West Rounton and Osmotherley enjoy piped supplies of wholesome water, extensive areas of your District still depend on wells, many of them unsatisfactory as to quality, and many being more or less surface wells fail during long periods of drought necessitating the carting of water for stock from the nearest stream or from village supplies. As this is an extensive and important milk producing area the pressing need for a piped supply of wholesome water is obvious and urgent. It is therefore satisfactory to record that a Public Inquiry has already been held as to the suitability of the valley of the Cod Beck below Sheep Wash as a site for an additional reservoir to be provided and maintained jointly by the Urban and the Rural Authorities of Northallerton.

During the Inquiry objections were heard by representatives of riparian interests—none of which appear to be insuperable—it is therefore to be hoped that the carrying out of the scheme may be expedited, subject to satisfactory geological survey.

As this important work will, in any case, occupy considerable time I must again refer to Great Langton which stands upon a gravel bed close to the Swale—a river very liable to heavy floodings, and receiving raw sewage along its course. The village pump has for years carried a painted warning that the water must not be used for human consumption without previous boiling. I am told that this is not now always done. No doubt a certain amount of filtration will occur in passing through gravel but certainly not enough. Another well in the village to which access is freely given is also found on analysis to be unfit.

The Council is therefore advised to seek permission from Bedale Rural District Council for a supply by extension from the main at Kirkby Fleetham, about a mile distant, **in the Bedale Rural District.**

Below is analysis of water taken from the Swale at Langton and pumps in the village. There does not appear to be any unpolluted well in this Village and therefore **all water taken for human consumption must be boiled.**

WATER BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT.

Nature of Sample . . . Pump in yard, Langton Farm, Gt. Langton.

Date and hour of collection . . . 11-12-47 3-30 p.m.

Date and hour of arrival . . . 11-12-47 5 p.m.

Date and hour of examination . . . do

Plate Count. Yeastral agar 3 days 22° C. aerobically . . . — per ml.

„ „ „ 2 days 37° C. „ . . . 50 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° C. . . 180+ per 100 ml.

Approximate proportions of faecal and non-faecal coli :

(a) Faecal coli . . . — per cent.

(b) Non-faecal coli . . . 100 per cent.

Remarks

Date of Report 16-12-47.

There is gross contamination with coliform organisms, all of which appear to belong to intermediate-aerogenes-cloacae or to irregular types.

Nature of Sample . . . Pump—Gt. Langton Village.

Date and hour of collection . . . 11-12-47 3-35 p.m.

Date and hour of arrival . . . 11-12-47 5 p.m.

Date and hour of examination . . . do

Plate Count. Yeastral agar 3 days 22° C. aerobically . . . —

„ „ „ 2 days 37° C. „ . . . 200 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° C. . . 90 per 100 ml.

Approximate proportions of faecal and non-faecal coli :

(a) Faecal coli . . . — per cent.

(b) Non-faecal coli . . . 100 per cent.

Remarks

Date of Report 16-12-47.

There is a fairly high degree of contamination with coliform organisms all of which appear to belong to intermediate-aerogenes-cloacae or to irregular types.

Nature of Sample . . . River Swale, under Great Langton Bridge.

Date and hour of collection . . . 15-1-48 2 p.m.

Date and hour of arrival . . . 15-1-48 2-30 p.m.

Date and hour of examination . . . do

Date Count. Yeastral agar 3 days 22° C. aerobically . . . — per ml.

„ „ „ 2 days 37° C. „ . . . uncountable per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° C. . . 180+ per 100 ml.

Approximate proportions of faecal and non-faecal coli :

(a) Faecal coli . . . 100 per cent.

(b) Non-faecal coli . . . — per cent.

Remarks

Date of Report 19-1-48.

There is gross contamination with coliform organisms, all of which are faecal (Bact. coli Type 1).

MILK.

There are at date 540 Cow Keepers on your register. Of these 9 are licensed for the production of milk from "tubercular attested herds," and 13 for the production of "attested milk." Special facilities for the daily collection of milk from the farms have led to the practice of sending nearly all milk produced within your area to the Dairy of the Dried Milk Products Co., at Romanby, where it is pasteurised and tested before despatch to distributors.

The pasteurising plants (3) are carefully maintained and produce satisfactory results. The effects of these arrangements have been pronounced—

1. Cessation of complaints of unsatisfactory milk by the Sanitary Officials of Authorities receiving the milk, and
2. Unfortunately the practical cessation of all fresh butter and cheese making within your area.

The churns in which the milk is conveyed are tinned vessels which soon rust and then are difficult to clean and to keep clean ; if these churns were freed from all rust and japanned a green colour they would be easily cleaned and kept clean.

The volume of milk dealt with and dispatched to distributors daily from the Dairy varies according to season, from 22,000 to 33,000 gallons.

Ice Cream. None manufactured here, retailers obtain their supplies from reputable firms such as Messrs. Lyons. Specimens have therefore not been taken for analysis.

Scrupulous care to avoid all risk of contamination by retailers must be taken. Only freshly sterilised spoons or other ladles may be used in serving portions,—sterilised by immersion in boiling water for some minutes.

There are two bakeries within your District—both are satisfactory.

I am indebted to T. Johnston Esq., M.R.C.V.S, County Council Chief Veterinary Inspector, for his report below appended.

T.B. ORDER OF 1938.

12 animals were slaughtered under the above Order. 10 were in milk. Post Mortem examination revealed that :—

4	had been suffering from tuberculosis	of the udder.
5	„ „ „	with chronic cough.
1	„ „ „	and was emaciated.
2	„ „ „	and had been excreting or discharging tuberculous material.

There were no other notifiable disease dealt with in the Northallerton Rural District.

Milk and Dairies, Clinical Examination of Dairy Cattle.

535 inspections were made during the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND BUTCHERS SHOPS.

There are now no private slaughter houses. All animals intended for human consumption are killed and dressed at the Central Slaughter House, in the Urban Area, under official inspectors and supervised by Mr. White. Butchers' Shops and delivery vans continue as before—meat is protected from contamination by dust and flies by suitable coverings. I have, however, again to complain that all shops and the interiors of delivery vans are not regularly lime-washed at least twice a year. The slaughter of pigs fed and killed at home for personal consumption is permissible by special license.

Factories and Workshops. Generally satisfactory. During the past year washing facilities have been provided in connection with all W.C's— together with notice calling attention to the importance of this item of toilet; owing to the **presence of unsuspected carriers of infection** amongst those who are apparently in all respects quite normal. All young persons under the age of 16 are required to be medically certified as physically fit for the work on which they are to be employed. During 1947 it was not found necessary to reject any of the Applicants :—Eyes, noses, throats and especially teeth were all found markedly improved as compared with a few years ago.

SCAVENGING.

Until recently systematic scavenging of half your District was undertaken by neighbouring farmers, but the work was difficult and unpopular, and from time to time no tender was received for certain villages—with the result that complaints were **frequent and urgent**, and Mr. Templeman had to make personal appeals to get the work undertaken—further advertisement having failed. This together with **seriously rising costs** led the Council to obtain a second motor karrier with permanent whole-time crew. Since this acquisition, relief to householders and to your officials has been pronounced—all pans are now cleared with regularity and complaints have ceased.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal.

Within recent years all your larger villages have been re-sewered and provided with settling tanks—at Brompton especially sewage passes through a series of tanks before discharge to the Beck below the village. A scheme for sewage disposal is now being developed by your consulting engineers.

It was hoped to deal with sewage from Brompton and Romanby at one disposal works but poor fall is a serious difficulty and may call for modification of the scheme and involve pumping. For the present, Romanby sewage is being treated by chemical precipitants in lagoons on the site of the old Willow Garth which was destroyed after receiving sewage from the Factory Dairy at Romanby. Great Smeaton sewer discharges on to a “soak away” near the Wiske and well away from the village.

Other village sewers deliver to Tanks or soak away before discharging to a water course. From time to time Tanks are cleared of deposit.

SCHOOLS.

Mr. Baraclough again considerably furnished a list of children on the Registers found to be still unprotected against Diphtheria, and where necessary Clinics were held. Inspections of the sanitary arrangements at all your schools were made. All were found clean and well kept. The cemented surface of the playground at Cowton school could be extended to cover the school entrance which is still cobbled. Closet accommodation for girls at Osmotherley school is to be increased.

The proximity of new Council houses to the present sewer outlets from Brompton and Romanby make it imperative that the projected combined sewage disposal works should be carried out with as little delay as possible.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Clearance of the Wiske, and other of our larger water courses, by motor excavator has had a stimulating effect on those responsible for smaller tributaries and it may now be said that generally our water courses are in better order than for many years past. All streams below the hills are however more or less polluted and although satisfactory for horses and other stock, much better than the usual pond, are totally unfit for domestic and dairying purposes. Brompton beck was again cleared during the past summer. Here I must again refer to Great Langton water supply.

IMMUNISATION.

As noted in the Annual Report for 1946, responsibility for securing, as far as possible the immunisation of children under school age was transferred to the Welfare Authorities—as District Nurses and Health Visitors enjoyed considerable influence and had frequent opportunities of contacting parents and urging the duty of protecting their children against the distressing and often fatal disease—**Diphtheria**. The result has been gratifying: comparatively few newly joined scholars are now found to be unimmunised, and furthermore, there are now requests for a reinforcement (a third) injection of children who were first immunised 6-7 years ago—a wise precaution against the risk of becoming a carrier later.—“ A carrier ” although apparently quite normal, is capable of infecting other unprotected persons and should therefore, whenever recognised, be isolated and treated till yielding negative swabs for a full week before discharge—a serious interference with the activities of the average adult citizen; a contingency which may be evaded by a third or reinforcement injection.

HOUSING, 1947.

The total number of houses erected and owned by the Council before and during the last war was 56 (Fifty Six) of which 14 (Fourteen) were erected for Agricultural Workers.

Under the Council's present housing programme 32 (Thirty two) houses have been completed and occupied and 54 (Fifty four) are under construction.

Great care is being exercised by the House letting Committee in the selection of applicants for tenancy—often a difficult task.

In addition to the above a further 132 (One hundred and thirty two) are projected.

It has also officially been projected to erect 30 (Thirty) houses for Agricultural Workers.

Owing to the great demand on available labour and materials only a very small amount of repairs have been completed in connection with the recent survey under the Rural Workers' Acts.

Below is Schedule as at 31st December, 1947.

The present building Programme is :

Parish	Under Con- struction	Com- pleted	Pro- jected	Total
Ainderby Steeple ..	—	4	—	4
Appleton Wiske ..	4	—	10	14
Brompton	18	14	40	72
Borrowby	4	—	—	4
Danby Wiske ..	—	—	6	6
East Cowton	4	—	—	4
Great Smeaton ..	—	—	6	6
Hornby	—	—	2	2
Osmotherley ..	—	6	6	12
Romanby	24	8	62	94
Total ..	54	32	132	218

In addition to the above, 30 houses are projected for Agricultural Workers.

The total number of Council houses erected pre-world war was 56.

Pre World War II the Council had erected, and were the owners of 56 working class houses, and have since **completed** 32 more. They also have in course of construction—several nearing completion—54, while a further 132 are officially projected. In addition to the above schedule 30 houses are projected for Agricultural Workers. (All our local builders have been fully employed on these works and, in consequence, it has for some time been practically impossible to get anyone to undertake alterations or repairs). Great care is being exercised in the selection of applicants for tenancy by the Housing Committee—often a difficult task.

GROUP ISOLATION HOSPITAL (1947).

Receiving patients from Northallerton Urban and Rural Areas and Bedale, Thirsk and Helmsley Rural Areas together with patients from nearby military camps.

The number of receptions is again considerably lower than the figure for 1945—159.

78 cases were received : of these 47 were civilian and 31 military.

Receptions were : Scarlet Fever, 57 ; Infantile Paralysis, 10 ; Diphtheris, 4 ; Measles, 2 ; German Measles, 2 ; Infectious Jaundice, 1 ; Typhoid Fever, 1 ; Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, 1. The Diphtherias were not ill but yielded positive swabs and were therefore potential carriers and were isolated and treated till negative for a full week before discharge. The Typhoid case was a resident of Richmond Rural District who had been sent to the Northallerton Infirmary. Of the 10 Infantile Paralysis, 9 cleared up without paralysis—the tenth developed Deltoid paralysis which had passed off before discharge. Spinal Puncture for the Cerebro Spinal case was the only surgical interference required. There were no deaths and no return cases, a probationer nurse was appointed. A ward maid has not yet been found. Owing to the variety of infections already here, it was necessary to transfer 8 cases to Guisborough Hospital. The motor driver and general help is so far most satisfactory.

REPORT by the Medical Officer of Health for the past six months.

January 1st to June 30th, 1948.

JULY, 1948.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In compliance with Standing Regulations I beg to submit my report for the past half year. The general health of your Area has continued remarkably good, together with a continued absence of serious infectious diseases.

Prolonged drought earlier in the year led to failure of water supplies where dependent on wells as at Warlabby and Yafforth, where water for household requirements had to be carried.

No report has yet been received as to the results of the Public Inquiry regarding the projected new reservoir at Osmotherley, to be provided jointly by the Urban and the Rural District Councils of Northallerton. As the whole district is a milk producing area the need for an adequate and piped supply of wholesome water is urgent. Actual work on the new reservoir, must however, await a satisfactory geological report as a result of careful surveys; and approval by the Ministry.

All schools have been visited and inspected as to sanitary arrangements. All were found clean and cared for. Where water closets are not at present possible pan closets should be adopted and middens discontinued. Immunising clinics were held where necessary, and here I have again to acknowledge the considerate and informative help given by Mr. Barraclough in repeating the immunisation census of all children on the registers.

The cobbled entrance to Cowton School would be much improved by a covering of cement.

The small tank opposite Yafforth school **should be moved further down the lane and ventilated**; and the school cleaner might be made responsible for pouring a pailful of water daily down the grate where the school children often play, and which becomes **unsealed, offensive** and dangerous in droughty weather.

The cobbled entrance to East Cowton school would be much improved by a surfacing of cement.

Beyond an outbreak of " influenza colds " we have had no epidemic. The following notifications were received during the six months ending June 30th, 1948 :—Scarlet Fever, 2 ; Measles, 19 ; Pneumonia, 4 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2.

During the past six months 37 Births were registered—16 males, 21 females. Two only were illegitimate.

44 deaths were registered : of these 13 were octogenarians, and six were children under 1 year. No death was registered as due to acute infectious disease.

Housing—Dec. 31st, 1947 to June 30th, 1948.

The original schedule of projected houses totalling 132 houses has been curtailed by the Ministry, the present authorised figure is 16.

The total number of houses completed during the above period were 26.

Houses under construction 28.

Houses projected :—

Agricultural Workers Cottages	14
Airey Houses	12
General Workers Houses	108

Isolation Hospital.

The administration of the Hospital has been satisfactory. General conditions continue as noted in the report for 1947. The number of receptions continue to decrease. Scarlet Fever, 19 ; of these, 8 were sent in by the military. Diphtheria, 1.

In concluding this my final report I desire again to express my appreciation and sincere thanks for the unvarying support and help accorded me in the discharge of my duties by the Council, my fellow officials and my professional neighbours, and now Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. HUTCHINSON, M.O.H.

